

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing build of material information in a computer system, comprising:
 - identifying build of material information in a source file of the computer system;
 - encoding a file marker with the build of material information from the source file; and
 - storing the file marker in a physical storage location;
 - wherein the build of material information is encoded in a file name of the file marker.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of sending the file marker to a central authority when an application abnormally terminates.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the file marker comprises a null file ~~with a file name.~~
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the file name is populated with information from a SMBIOS table.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the file name ranges from 1 to 256 characters.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the file marker is provided within a physical storage medium.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the physical storage medium comprises a disk drive.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the build of material information is selected from the group consisting of device drivers, software applications, operating systems, and BIOS versions.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the central authority is selected from the group consisting of a server, a managing computer, a network administrator, a technical assistance center, and an automated calling center.
11. (Currently Amended) A method for providing build of material information in a computer system, comprising:
 - receiving a source file into the computer system;
 - identifying build of material information in the source file;
 - encoding a file marker with the build of material information from the source file; and
 - storing the file marker in a physical storage location;

wherein the build of material information is encoded in a file name of the file marker.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the receiving of the file is by a download from a computer readable medium.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of sending the file marker to a central authority when an application abnormally terminates.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the file marker comprises a null file ~~with a file name.~~

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the file name is populated with information from a SMBIOS table.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the file name ranges from 1 to 256 characters.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the file marker is provided within a physical storage medium.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the physical storage medium comprises a disk drive.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the build of material information is selected from the group consisting of device drivers, software applications, operating systems, and BIOS versions.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the central authority is selected from the group consisting of a server, a managing computer, a network administrator, a technical assistance center, and an automated calling center.
22. (Currently Amended) A method of providing build of material information during a software failure, comprising:
- encoding a file marker with build of material information from a source file; and
 - sending the file marker to a central authority when an application abnormally terminates;
 - wherein the build of material information is encoded in a file name of the file marker.
23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of storing the file marker in a physical storage location.
24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the file marker comprises a null file ~~with a file name.~~

25. (Canceled)
26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the file name is populated with information from a SMBIOS table.
27. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the file name ranges from 1 to 256 characters.
28. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the file marker is provided within a physical storage medium.
29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the physical storage medium comprises a disk drive.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the build of material information is selected from the group consisting of device drivers, software applications, operating systems, and BIOS versions.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the central authority is selected from the group consisting of a server, a managing computer, a network administrator, a technical assistance center, and an automated calling center.

32. (Currently Amended) A set of computer readable instructions ~~tangibly embodied in~~ stored on a computer readable medium for providing build of material information, comprising:

a first command for identifying build of material information in a source file;

a second command for encoding a file marker with the build of material information from the source file; and

a third command for storing the file marker in a physical storage location;

wherein the build of material information is encoded in a file name of the file marker.

33. (Previously Presented) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 32, further comprising a fourth command for sending the file marker to a central authority during a software application failure.

34. (Previously Presented) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 32, wherein the build of material information is read from a SMBIOS interface.

35. (Currently Amended) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 32, wherein the file marker comprises a null file ~~with a file name~~.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 35, wherein the file name is populated with information from a SMBIOS table.

38. (Previously Presented) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 35, wherein the file name ranges from 1 to 256 characters.

39. (Previously Presented) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 32, wherein the file marker is stored within a physical storage medium.

40. (Previously Presented) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 39, wherein the physical storage medium is a disk drive.

41. (Previously Presented) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 32, wherein the build of material information is selected from the group consisting of device drivers, software applications, operating systems, and BIOS versions.

42. (Previously Presented) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 32, wherein the central authority is selected from the group consisting of a server, a managing computer, a network administrator, a technical assistance center, and an automated calling center.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer system for providing build of material information during a software failure, comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled with the processor;

a signal, executable by the processor, wherein the signal further comprises, a means for generating a file marker and encoding the file marker with build of material information from a source file;

a communication assembly coupled with the processor, the communication assembly for sending the file marker to a central authority when an application abnormally terminates,

wherein the central authority may use the file markers in failure analysis, system restoration, and for future use in identifying and diagnosing technical support issues; and

wherein the build of material information is encoded in a file name of the file marker.

44. (Original) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the build of material information is read from a SMBIOS interface.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the file marker comprises a null file ~~with a file name~~.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Original) The computer system of claim 45, wherein the file name is populated with information from a SMBIOS table.

48. (Original) The computer system of claim 45, wherein the file name ranges from 1 to 256 characters.

49. (Original) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the file marker is provided within a physical storage medium.

50. (Original) The computer system of claim 49, wherein the physical storage medium is a disk drive.

51. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the build of material information is selected from the group consisting of device drivers, software applications, operating systems, and BIOS versions.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the central authority is selected from the group consisting of a server, a managing computer, a network administrator, a technical assistance center, and an automated calling center.

53. (Currently Amended) A means for providing build of material information during a software failure, comprising:

means for encoding a file marker with build of material information from a source file;

and

means for sending the file marker when an application abnormally terminates;

wherein the build of material information is encoded in a file name of the file marker.

54. (Currently Amended) The means of claim 53, wherein the file marker comprises a null file ~~with a file name, the file name being encoded with the build of material information.~~

55. (Original) The means of claim 53, wherein the file marker is sent to a central authority when an application abnormally terminates.

56. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the file name contains predefined fields of characters configured to communicate the build of material information without requiring opening of the file marker.

57. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the file name contains predefined fields of characters configured to communicate the build of material information without requiring opening of the file marker.

58. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the file name contains predefined fields of characters configured to communicate the build of material information without requiring opening of the file marker.

59. (New) The set of computer readable instructions of claim 32, wherein the file name contains predefined fields of characters configured to communicate the build of material information without requiring opening of the file marker.

60. (New) The computer system of claim 43, wherein the file name contains predefined fields of characters configured to communicate the build of material information without requiring opening of the file marker.

61. (New) The means of claim 53, wherein the file name contains predefined fields of characters configured to communicate the build of material information without requiring opening of the file marker.